

The Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund

The Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund was established by the Utility Restructuring Act of 1996 with a mission to increase the role of renewable energy in supplying Rhode Island energy consumers. The Fund is administered by the State Energy Office and supported by an advisory board whose members represent the concerns of the people of Rhode Island, its businesses and educational institutions. For more information about the Fund, visit www.riseo.state.ri.us.

RECA

The Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund is encouraging large businesses and educational institutions to use renewable energy by establishing the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation program (RECA). Investigating renewable energy, analyzing the options, and purchasing renewable energy are big tasks. RECA brings together the efforts of many to accomplish these tasks as a single group, and provides added strength to energy users, who can combine their purchasing power.

RECA's mission is to educate large energy users about renewable energy purchasing opportunities, and to show them the direct benefits of this clean energy to their businesses, colleges, and universities. RECA's goal is to enable businesses, colleges and universities to acquire renewable energy for their facilities in Rhode Island.

Join the RECA Program!

The RECA program is available to large businesses and higher learning institutions. To join, your organization must:

- Have facilities in Rhode Island;
- Consume a minimum of 1,000,000 kilowatt-hours per year at Rhode Island facilities; and
- Be committed!

The process will involve up to four program meetings over a five-month period and an ongoing effort by members to make renewable energy a success.

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THE RHODE ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY
CUSTOMER AGGREGATION PROGRAM

CLEAN POWER

FOR THE OCEAN STATE

Supported by the
RHODE ISLAND
RENEWABLE
ENERGY FUND

What is Renewable Energy?

Renewable energy is fuel that doesn't pollute and doesn't run out. It is constantly replenished because it comes from natural processes such as wind, sunlight and the earth's heat. What's more, renewable energy is clean, producing almost no pollution, and making the air we breathe and the water we drink cleaner for everyone.

The United States currently relies on coal, oil, natural gas and nuclear materials for the majority of its energy needs. These are the primary fuels that power the American economy, as well as Rhode Island's economy. But fossil fuels such as these are nonrenewable. They draw on finite resources that are constantly diminishing and do not replenish themselves. They also pollute our urban, rural and natural environment. Eventually they will become too expensive or too environmentally damaging, so we need alternatives.

The Benefits of Joining RECA

The Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund wants large energy consumers in Rhode Island to join RECA. By learning about and eventually purchasing renewable energy, you will do more than contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment. You will also directly benefit your business or institution.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS. Renewable energy allows for accurate long-term financial planning. The costs to consumers for renewable energy resources are based upon very different factors than those that set the costs for fossil fuels. Fossil fuels must be mined, transported, combusted, and regulated for pollution. These costs can be highly variable. However, once the capital investment is made to build renewable energy resources, the cost of the electricity is set. There are also many incentives available to encourage the use of renewable energy. Through RECA, you will learn about valuable federal, state and local tax incentives and rebates while seeing first hand how renewable energy can be a hedge against volatile energy prices. You will also have the opportunity to buy renewable energy as part of a large group, pooling your own buying power with others for even greater potential savings.

LEARN FAST AND STAY AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION. RECA will take you through the process of investigating and purchasing renewable energy. Your organization will: receive individualized or aggregate team assistance to teach you about the renewable energy market, new technologies, and the opportunities available; learn about your company's own environmental liabilities and how to reduce them; obtain a request for proposals to solicit renewable energy products; and learn how to evaluate the costs and benefits of proposed purchases.

PUBLIC IMAGE. Organizations around the country and the world are recognized as leaders for positive change when they reduce their use of polluting fossil fuels and make the switch to clean renewable energy.

HELPING THE COMMUNITY AND THE STATE. Ultimately renewable energy benefits everyone by contributing to cleaner air and a healthier environment. Joining RECA will help you understand the health impacts of energy use on the citizens of Rhode Island and the impacts to the local ecology from fossil fuel emissions.



SOUTH COUNTY HOSPITAL FUEL CELL SYSTEM
WAKEFIELD, R.I.



WIND TURBINE, BLOCK ISLAND, R.I.



BJ'S WHOLESALE CLUB PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM
MIDDLETON, R.I.